



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 16, 2018

Case No. F-2017-15758

Segment: S/ES-S-0001, S/ES-S-0001IC1

Campaign for Accountability
611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, #337
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mrs. O'Connor:

I refer to our letter dated July 16, 2018, regarding the release of certain Department of State ("Department") records under of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department has reviewed over 300 potentially responsive pages, and retrieved 5 documents responsive to your request. After reviewing these documents, we have determined that one may be released in full, and four may be released in part.

The processing of your request remains ongoing. An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released. All released material is enclosed.

If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant U.S. Attorney April Denise Seabrook, at April.Seabrook@usdoj.gov or (202) 252-2525. Please refer to Civil Action Number 18-0464 and FOIA case number F-2017-15758 in all correspondence regarding this case.

Sincerely,

Eric F. Stein, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

Figueroa, Priscilla C

From: Skinner, Kiron K
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 1:01 PM
To: Talento, Kathryn F. EOP/WHO
Cc: Matthew Mowers; Flynn, Matthew J; Wasinger, Robert K; Stoebe, Danielle M
Subject: FW: Clearing Papers: New Guidance

Importance: High

RELEASE IN FULL

Dear Katy,

Please send the note below from the deputy director of Policy Planning. After speaking with me about the Mexico City Policy, and its implications, Edward has asked his team not to move forward on any projects that will be in violation of that Policy. I could explain more to you in a phone call. I will brief fully Matt M. Matt F., and Rob in our leadership meeting at the end of the day.

Best,

Kiron

Official
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From: Lacey, Edward
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 10:58 AM
To: SP_Expanded; Morgen, Hunter; Stoebe, Danielle M
Subject: Clearing Papers: New Guidance
Importance: High

Guidance:

S/P Staff should continue to monitor and clear on Department papers.

However, I ask that you be mindful that policy is in flux, and we should not be signing off on anything that we have reason to believe will conflict with policy emanating from or anticipated from the White House or the Secretary once he is confirmed. Additionally, if you are asked to clear on something that indeed does appear to be at variance with Administration policy, please do NOT clear on it and bring it to my attention expeditiously. This includes programmatic and funding issues.

Thanks gang.
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Figueroa, Priscilla C

From: Mowers, Matthew D
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:41 AM
To: Austin Ruse; Hook, Brian H; Pryor, Pamela D
Subject: RE: Urgent on CSW..

RELEASE IN PART
B6

Thank you Austin. I know Pam is very involved in helping guide the ship here. Pam, do you have any further insight into this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Austin Ruse [mailto:austinruse@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Mowers, Matthew D <MowersMD@state.gov>; Hook, Brian H <HookBH@state.gov>; Pryor, Pamela D <PryorPD@state.gov>
Subject: Urgent on CSW..

B6

Dear Brian, Matthew, and Pam,

There are serious problems heading into the Commission on the Status of Women.

First, at the briefing this Wednesday, there is only one pro-life group that has been approved to attend in person, as far as we know. All the rest are abortion groups.

Second, this tells me the civil society representatives for the Trump administration at CSW will likely come from abortion groups, groups that actively oppose administration policy on Mexico City policy and much else.

We believe the problem here is that Laurie Shestack-Phipps is in charge of this and, while she is a career person, it is our belief, even under the Bush administration, that she is not with the administration on these important issues.

So, pro-life groups have to be allowed into the meeting this Wednesday AND civil society members of the CSW delegations must come from pro-life groups.

I am very grateful to hear back from you.

Yours sincerely,

Austin

Figueroa, Priscilla C

From: Austin Ruse <austinruse@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 6:57 PM
To: Pryor, Pamela D
Cc: Lisa Correnti; Mowers, Matthew D; Hook, Brian H
Subject: Re: Urgent on CSW..

RELEASE IN PART
B6

B6

Great...thanks...

> On Mar 6, 2017, at 6:10 PM, Pryor, Pamela D <PryorPD@state.gov> wrote:

> I think it's getting taken care of. We did indeed get a bigger room. Your people should have gotten a new invitation. I've pasted it in below. I've also briefed Ambassador Haley's staff on our concerns. Lisa, I am always open for conversations. Thanks all.

> Dear colleagues:

> We are looking forward to our discussion on March 8 on the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women. It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Department. Please find below our updated invitation for Wednesday's event. Please note especially the below updates.

> Due to the high level of interest in this event and to maximize participation, we have secured a larger space. Unfortunately, there is no phone capability in this room. Please also note there is limited cell reception in this room. If you were planning on calling in previously, please let us know if your organization will attend instead in-person. We kindly ask that organizations send only one representative, in order to be as inclusive as possible. Please RSVP by 9AM 3/7/17 to sgwi_rsvp@state.gov with your name, organization, DOB, and either your driver's license or passport number.

> For all attendees, we strongly recommend that you arrive no later than 10:15AM; please bring sure to bring ID. Due to the large size of this meeting, as well as multiple conferences ongoing at the State Department this week, we want to ensure you allow enough time for security and processing at the main entrance. Please prepare in advance for a wait at screening; we will have staff waiting in the lobby to escort you to the room after you check in. Again, it is our pleasure to welcome you to this event and thank you in advance for your understanding!

> Many thanks.

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> Valerie Keitt
> Secretary's Office for Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) Support
> Contractor, MicroSystems Automation Group
> 202-647-7285

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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Austin Ruse [mailto:austinruse@]

> Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 6:04 PM

> To: Pryor, Pamela D; Lisa Correnti

> Cc: Mowers, Matthew D; Hook, Brian H

> Subject: Re: Urgent on CSW..

>

> I am turning this over to Lisa Correnti who is in charge of this for us..

>

> Lisa would be happy to call..

>

>> On Mar 6, 2017, at 1:26 PM, Pryor, Pamela D <PryorPD@state.gov> wrote:

>>

>> Why don't you call me rather than discussing via email - 2026470710?

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Austin Ruse [mailto:austinruse@]

>> Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:47 AM

>> To: Pryor, Pamela D

>> Cc: Mowers, Matthew D; Hook, Brian H

>> Subject: Re: Urgent on CSW..

>>

>> Pam,

>>

>> May I suggest you get a bigger room? Why in the world would the Trump state Dept only have groups present that oppose his policies? We believe that only one pro-life group will be in the room.

>>

>> Just so you know, this is our 20th CSW.

>>

>>

>>> On Mar 6, 2017, at 11:44 AM, Pryor, Pamela D <PryorPD@state.gov> wrote:

>>>

>>> Austin, thank you for this. I have endeavored to invite several more pro-life and right of center groups. They (in this case a woman named Robin) said the room is too small. I suggested they bring in folding chairs or just let people stand. Will we see someone from CFAM? If people got a "sorry, we are all filled up" message from the hosts of the March 8 meeting, please direct them to me.

>>>

>>> Finally, I share your concern about the folks in charge. I met with Betty Bernstein-Zabza and Katrina Fotovat and they heard loud and clear our concerns. I can check out Ms. Shestack-Phipps though and get back to you. Thank you for caring about this with us!

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: Austin Ruse [mailto:austinruse@]

>>> Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:35 AM

>>> To: Mowers, Matthew D; Hook, Brian H; Pryor, Pamela D

>>> Subject: Urgent on CSW..

>>>

>>> Dear Brian, Matthew, and Pam,

>>>

>>> There are serious problems heading into the Commission on the Status of Women.

B6

B6

B6

>>>

>>> First, at the briefing this Wednesday, there is only one pro-life group that has been approved to attend in person, as far as we know. All the rest are abortion groups.

>>>

>>> Second, this tells me the civil society representatives for the Trump administration at CSW will likely come from abortion groups, groups that actively oppose administration policy on Mexico City policy and much else.

>>>

>>> We believe the problem here is that Laurie Shestack-Phipps is in charge of this and, while she is a career person, it is our belief, even under the Bush administration, that she is not with the administration on these important issues.

>>>

>>> So, pro-life groups have to be allowed into the meeting this Wednesday AND civil society members of the CSW delegations must come from pro-life groups.

>>>

>>> I am very grateful to hear back from you.

>>>

>>> Yours sincerely,

>>>

>>> Austin

>>>

>>>

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>> Official - SBU

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> Official - Transitory

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> <Updated March 8 CSW Invitation.doc>

Figueroa, Priscilla C

From: Austin Ruse <austinruse [REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:12 AM
To: Hook, Brian H
Subject: Mexico City Policy

B6

RELEASE IN PART B6

Dear Brian,

President Trump's reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy was a welcome first step to getting U.S. foreign aid back on track. Our team at C-Fam is preparing a brief for you on how to make sure it is implemented such that it has the effect the president intended.

As you know, in the many years since the policy was last implemented, abortion has been mainstreamed into many areas of global health funding that are currently not covered by the policy. What's more, millions of dollars have been redirected to abortion and LGBT advocacy groups under the many new "gender" programs created in the last administration. So too did they received many new multi-year grants and contracts in the waning days of the last administration.

It's essential that Mexico City Policy implementation takes account of all these changes. If not, these special interest groups will keep receiving the bulk of their taxpayer funding and also get the additional monetary and political benefit of railing against the president's policy. They have already been pledged \$200M by Europeans, and another \$600M by Canadians, for example.

We ask that a decision on implementation be postponed until all of these facts are fully accounted for. We will get you C-Fam's analysis as soon as possible.

Best,

Austin

Figueroa, Priscilla C

From: Austin Ruse <austinruse[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:37 PM
To: Hook, Brian H
Subject: Re: Mexico City Policy

B6

RELEASE IN PART B6

That's great you got with Bannon. He's a very interesting guy. I am a huge fan

We maybe should talk at some point about what I should bring you. I don't want to be a burden and there are perhaps others we can bring things to. Steve Groves at US UN for instance. He's very helpful. Let's talk parameters at some point.

Good luck in Asia.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 9, 2017, at 7:29 PM, Hook, Brian H <HookBH@state.gov> wrote:

>

> Steve Bannon and I spent time together today and talked about you. He's a big fan.

>

> I will follow up on this email you sent. I'm going with the secretary to Asia for all of next week and buried in China strategy and trip prep. But I don't want to lose sight of this.

>

> On Mar 9, 2017, at 11:12 AM, Austin Ruse <austinruse[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Brian,

>

> President Trump's reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy was a welcome first step to getting U.S. foreign aid back on track. Our team at C-Fam is preparing a brief for you on how to make sure it is implemented such that it has the effect the president intended.

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> As you know, in the many years since the policy was last implemented, abortion has been mainstreamed into many areas of global health funding that are currently not covered by the policy. What's more, millions of dollars have been redirected to abortion and LGBT advocacy groups under the many new "gender" programs created in the last administration. So too did they receive many new multi-year grants and contracts in the waning days of the last administration.

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>

> We ask that a decision on implementation be postponed until all of these facts are fully accounted for. We will get you C-Fam's analysis as soon as possible.

>

> Best,

>

> Austin

B6